

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## MISSION 85 brings commitments

### "Scores . . . know God wants them"

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — About 350 students made commitments to involvement in missions during a New Year's Eve celebration in the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn. The New Year's Eve decisions came during the final session of MISSION 85 and brought to more than 450 the total for the missions conference.

MISSION 85 was sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, and the six seminaries.

Students filled the aisles and counselors were too few to deal with the response after R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, challenged the students to prove to God they are concerned about a lost world.

More than 4,000 students attended the four-day missions conference at the Opryland Hotel which included opportunities to talk in person with more than 100 home and foreign missionaries. In Global Village, a unique exhibit hall, students could talk by special telephone hookup with missionaries around the world and learn about missions needs through data from a bank of 12 computers. In daily encounter groups, students attempted to solve problems encountered on

the mission field.

Patsy Price, a senior at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., said Global Village "was just like being on the mission field." She talked with a missionary couple from Japan and about what the people and cultures are like.

"It was neat to see the genuine love missionaries have for the Japanese people," she said.

Global Village offered something for everyone — even connoisseurs of the popular Trivia Pursuit game. The WMU and Brotherhood Commission developed some 200 questions about SBC personalities, geography, history and current missions for Missions Trivia.

Ethan McCarty, a freshman at Jones Junior College, Ellisville, Miss., who played the game, said he "knew more than I thought I would." While geography questions were his strongest point, he confessed personality questions were particularly difficult.

However, he said the game "helped me learn things about missions I didn't know before."

Parks charged Southern Baptists' lack of concern for reaching the world for Christ is obvious because only five percent of the graduates from Southern Baptist seminaries choose to go into Baptist work outside the

United States.

"It takes 5,000 of us (Southern Baptists) to send one foreign missionary," he pointed out.

Parks said barriers which stand in the way of a commitment to foreign missions include prejudice, self-will, and self-seeking.

"Indifferent neglect is the most insulting kind of prejudice," Parks said. "I cannot understand how we read in the Bible about blessings to all nations and filter it to mean just for us."

"We don't believe a starving, bloated, fly-infested Ethiopian baby is as precious to God as we are. Do we?" he queried the students.

"There are scores of students here who know that God wants them and still are refusing to say 'yes' to God," he said.

Self-seeking leads to angry frustration because "what you want doesn't bring what you thought it would," Parks said.

A commitment to foreign missions is a commitment to suffering, not a tourist junket around the world or a trip on the Love Boat, Parks pointed out.

During the praise celebration following Parks' address, students clapped, sang, and swayed to the music of Jubilation Brass, an orchestra from Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and the chorale of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

The celebration service which was to end at midnight was delayed more than 30 minutes because of the continued response to the invitation during the commitment service.

The new year came as Ken Lyle, executive director of the Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention, told the students an encounter with missions is an encounter with God.

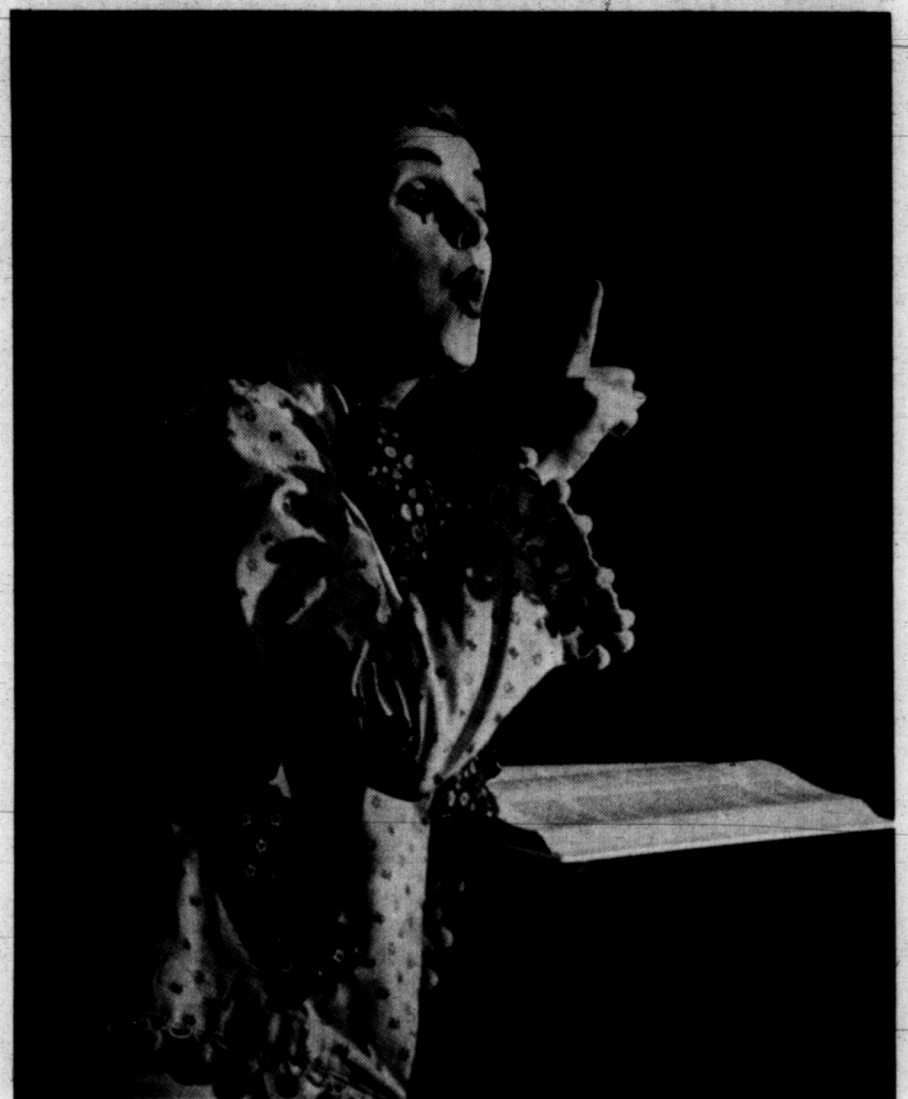
"God is a missionary. When we encounter God, it is a time of celebration and praise," Lyle said. "A celebration of praise is when people see you, they see Jesus in you."

"You have today to share the love of Jesus Christ. You can do it, but you must do it now because now is all you have," Lyle said.

White writes for the Sunday School Board.



The Thursday pre-session concert offered music by sight for some. Nancy Wilkins, Beaumont, Texas, provided interpretation for deaf persons attending the concert. (Photo by David F. Haywood.)



Jerri Graham Edmonds performed a mime during the Sunday evening session of MISSION 85. Edmonds is artist in residence at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. (Photo by Paul Brock)



John Bagwell, (L) Mississippi State University, Starkville, shares with Rosella Trotter, Furman University, Greenville, S.C., during a community encounter group session. (Photo by Mark Sandlin).



# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Spare us gambling's problems

Now that this year's legislative session is under way, it behooves Baptists in Mississippi to be as aware as possible of the moral issues that the Legislature will face. We may not have the time or the space to discuss all of them before the session has come to the point of making decisions in one way or another, but we need to consider some of the more prominent. Last week we addressed the issue of raising the legal age for drinking beer from 18 to 21. This week we need to look at some aspects of expected efforts to legalize gambling.

It must be noted right off that gambling in any form is illegal in Mississippi. Because of that we are indeed fortunate. If we don't need gambling, and surely that is the case, then it is a great deal easier to keep it out than it is to get rid of it once it is legalized.

The latter can be done. My home state kicked out pari-mutuel gambling after having legalized it because the citizens began to recognize the damage that was being done. It wasn't easy to get it out, but Texas has kept it out year after year since then in spite of efforts to legalize it again.

The Mississippi Legislature will be called on to make decisions on pari-mutuel gambling and on a lottery at this session. Bills for both have been filed in the House of Representatives. The pari-mutuel bill is HB 285 and 286, and the lottery bill is HCR 3. The pari-mutuel bill was introduced by Rep. Ted Millette of Jackson County, and the lottery bill was introduced by Rep. Alan Santa Cruz of Harrison County.

We don't need either of these bills. Lottery is a cowardly way of trying to raise money without paying the price, but the problem is that the people who

are going to pay the price anyway wind up paying a great deal more for a lottery than they would if taxes simply were raised to meet the need. In a lottery, as in any form of legal gambling, the government gets only a very small part of the money that is invested in the endeavor. The gamblers are guaranteed losers because some of the money goes to the government and some of it goes to those operating the gambling establishments. A great deal of the money goes to those who sell the equipment for gambling, and they are the ones who are promoting gambling in Mississippi and nationwide as a cure-all for economic problems. The gamblers collectively do not get back nearly all that they put into the hopeless situation.

Nor is it wise for a government to bank on taxes from gambling to take care of its interests. If the people use their heads and decline to gamble, where does that leave the government in its hoped-for revenue source for teacher pay raises or whatever? In a great number of instances, gambling taxes have not reached expectations.

One thing that can be counted on, however, when gambling comes to town and that is that crime and corruption will be right behind. Those who promote gambling do so to sell their wares, and they can proclaim all they want that it's going to be different this time and the gambling commissions will be geared up to fight crime and police the efforts. But why should we have to fight crime when we can get along without it easier? And the experiences of others tell us that it won't be different. Wherever there has been gambling there has been corruption. And why not? The two are both moral evils and would be expected to go hand in hand.

Gambling preys on those who cannot afford the losses that are inevitable. If people don't lose their money, the gambling operation will be unprofitable and will go out of business. A very few do win, and big publicity is given them. Then their relatives and acquaintances begin hounding them for hand-outs. Nothing is ever said about the hordes that have to lose for the gambling business to stay afloat so that the state can make a little money off of it.

Through gambling the state in effect gouges those people who have no more judgment than to pay their money to lose. That is not an attractive way to do business. It would be very much better to decide simply how much money is needed and establish a tax operation to get it. And it would be a great deal less expensive.

A list of the House committees is to be found in this issue. We need to be in touch with our representatives very quickly to let them know how we feel about gambling. We don't have it now. We don't want it.

Actually, we can't afford it.

Another gambling bill that might seem to have little indication of being a problem but which could be a step to the broader road of gambling's ills is HB 108, which would authorize non-profit organizations to conduct bingo games and for the state to receive a tax on the gross income. This was filed by Daniel Guice of Biloxi and was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

And since we mentioned alcohol in last week's paper, it should be pointed out that two representatives have filed bills to raise the limit for drinking beer and light wine to 21. These two are John D. Pennebaker of New



Albany, (HB 103) and P. A. Townsend of Laurel (HB 107). Both have been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

The bills on pari-mutuel gambling have also been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee; and HCR 3, the lottery bill, has been assigned to the Constitution Committee.

And one additional thought. It has been suggested that in supporting the bill to raise the drinking age for beer and light wine to 21 this publication was supporting drinking for those 21 and above. This is certainly not the case. There is no prohibition bill, or this publication would be supporting it with every fiber of its being. Prohibition, we feel, is the only reasonable answer to the liquor problem. And America is waking up to the fact that it is definitely a problem.

There will be those who will say that we surely never want to go back to the "hypocrisy of prohibition"; but in spite of its failure to eradicate drinking, it was successful. It kept liquor out of the hands of many. And so will the bill to raise the legal drinking age for beer and light wine keep those beverages out of the hands of many.

It needs to be noted that additional sponsors of the bill, in addition to Sen. Martin Smith, are Sens. Anderson, Briggs, Brooks, Burkes, Crook, Dyer, Gollot, Graham, Guerieri, Harper, Harpole, Heflin, Huggins, Keeton, Lambert, Mabry, Manning, Mills, Montgomery, Morgan, Powell, Rosenblatt, Shows, F. M. Smith, Stringer, Thames, and Childre.

The bill has now passed the Senate with only two votes opposed and has been sent to the House. We need to be in touch with our representatives.

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## Guest opinion . . .

# Baptists need legislative information

By Paul Griffin Jones II

The Mississippi legislature is in session and in the first week, the proposed pieces of legislation already number into the hundreds. Some of the already proposed legislation requires close examination, prayerful consideration, and/or a committed and rapid response. The issues listed are those that have already surfaced and will be considered quickly by the legislature. Your quick response indicating your interest or opposition is necessary if your senator or representative is to know your thinking and desire.

You can write all legislators at P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205 or by calling (601) 948-7321. You are the key to a legislative session that could be noted for taking a strong stand for that which represents the best of Christian ethical action and public concern for the health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of Mississippi.

ALCOHOL: Several bills would raise the drinking age of beer and light wine to age 21 (House Bills 103

and 107; Senate Bills 2005 and 2074). SB 2005 has passed the senate judiciary committee and merits our support. Other alcohol related bills include HB 194, which would prohibit the dismissal of a DUI charge; HB 223, which would prohibit the release of a drunk person until sober; HB 288, which would prohibit happy hours; and SB 2003 and SB 2102, which would make the purchase or possession of beer or light wine by a minor a delinquent act.

CHURCH/STATE: Three bills have been introduced that would cause the state to become more directly involved in the support and/or administration of private colleges or universities. HB 134 and HB 135 both would allow the state to provide qualified students up to \$1000 as a tuition voucher and payment would be paid directly to the private college. HB 136 would establish a state authority to provide financing for the purchase, repair, or expansion of facilities at private colleges.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: HB 45 would establish a Victim's Compensation Fund to be funded from payment which prisoners have been receiving for "telling their story." House Bills 138 and 139 allow for cities to use unmarked police vehicles. HB 163 increases the penalties for indecent exposure. HB 278 prohibits probation or parole for certain offenses. Senate Bill 2165 deals with the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

EDUCATION: House Bills 241, 263, 264, and 265 and Senate Bills 2159 and 2170 all address the issue of salary for public school teachers. SB 2016 authorizes corporal punishment. SB 2064 addresses the missing child problem. SB 2090 would require the teaching of scientific creationism if evolution is taught. SB 2214 would establish the position of school nurse.

ELECTIONS: House Bill 2 would increase the time allowed to vote absentee and HB 259 would amend the absentee ballot procedure law. Senate

Bill 2225 would prohibit automated calling devices being used in a political campaigns.

FAMILY: House Bill 50 would create a Uniform Child Custody Act which would decrease the legal arguments and controversies and link Mississippi with other states under a common set of procedures. HB 55 would add "irreconcilable differences" as a grounds for divorce. Senate Bill 2116 would revoke divorced spouses as normal recipients of inheritance through wills. SB 2122 would extend homestead exemption to surviving unremarried spouses. SB 2179 would make domestic abuse a crime and prescribe penalties for such authority.

GAMBLING: House and Senate Concurrent Resolution (HCR 3 and SCR 501) both provide for the amending of the constitution to allow for lotteries in the state. If passed by both houses, this would go to the voters for approval. HB 108 would legalize

(Continued on page 11)





## Piano for Gulfshore

A nine-foot Baldwin grand piano that had been donated to Parkway Church, Jackson, has now been donated by the church to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. When Parkway entered its new auditorium, it did so with a new grand piano; and the older one shown above, was stored at Mississippi Music Company. Shown above with the piano destined for Gulfshore are Mike Smith, music director at Parkway, and Dot Pray, keyboard specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department. The piano was built in 1901 and was used in the governor's mansion before going to the Parkway auditorium. Parkway had the piano completely reconditioned in 1979 at a cost of \$5,000. It is said to be valued at almost \$10,000 at this time. The need for a new piano at Gulfshore was highlighted late last year by a letter to the editor of the Baptist Record by Irene Martin, who serves as an accompanist at Gulfshore on numerous occasions.

## Crusade recruitment still short of needs

With less than a month to sign up, Mississippi Baptists' participation in the first two of a series of evangelistic projects in South America totals 27 volunteers out of 105 needed.

These first two projects will take place in Argentina and Uruguay, utilizing pastors and laypersons (men, women, and youths who are high school juniors or older). These will be placed in evangelistic teams of three each working with churches in these two South American countries.

Dates for the Uruguay crusade will be April 18-May 1. Dates of the first of three Argentina crusades will be April 15-May 1.

Don Mines, missionary to Argentina, and serving the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as coordinator of the ongoing Mississippi Partnership with Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay, notes that time to volunteer is growing short.

"Unless something dramatic happens this week, we're in trouble,"

Mines told the Baptist Record Monday. As of that date the travel agent could confirm 20 volunteers of the 60 needed for the Argentina project, and only seven of the 45 minimum needed for Uruguay.

Feb. 15 is a pivotal date, according to Mines because then the travel agent will have to give up group reservations on airlines. Also, Baptists in the South American countries need to confirm who is coming so that internal travel can be arranged.

The May 13 group to Argentina has 29 commitments out of 60 needed. And the June group also to Argentina has 24 of the 60 needed.

"A lot of people would say there's neither time nor money to do it," said Mines. "The answer lies in the heart of those who are available to the Lord."

To volunteer for one of the projects, which will cost about \$1,600 for travel, contact Mines at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, phone 968-3800.

# The Baptist Record

## Bill Glass to close Ev.-Bible conference

Theme of the 1985 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference will be "Follow Jesus." This annual meeting will take place Feb. 4-6, at First Church, Greenville, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 4, concluding at 11:45 a.m., Feb. 6.

Featured speakers include Bill Glass, Malcolm McDow, Perry Sanders, Charles Fuller, and Ron Lewis.

Glass, former pro football player with the Detroit Lions and the Cleveland Browns, directs the Bill Glass Evangelistic Association, which includes crusades in prisons across America. Glass will give the

closing message Wednesday morning entitled "Jesus Commands the Disciples."

McDow, who teaches evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, will speak three times during sessions including a talk on "The Despised Tax Collector."

Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La., will speak on "Those Who Hunger" and "The Frustration of Failure."

Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., will speak on "The Woman at the Well" and "The Self-Sufficient."

And Lewis, who operates Church Growth Designs, a Nashville consulting firm, will speak on "The Politically Powerful" and on "Andrew."

Three opportunities will be given participants to attend special interest conferences during the program. Topics and conference leaders include "The Doctrine of Christ," led by Frank Stagg, emeritus professor of New Testament, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; "The Pastor as Bible Teacher," led by W. O. Vaught, pastor emeritus, Immanuel Church, Little Rock; "The Bible and Church Growth," led by Ron Lewis; "Toward a Biblical Ministry to Human Hurts," led by James Heflin, associate professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary; "God's Call to Give," led by James L. Powell Jr., a staffer with the SBC Stewardship Commission, Nashville; and "Sharing God's Word Through Scripture Distribution," led by Jerry Massey, pastor, First Church, Amory.

Music leaders for the program include keyboard instrumentalists Nancy Riddle, pianist at First Church, Greenville; Irene Martin, music

evangelist from Forest; Dot Pray, music specialist for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department; Edwin Sudduth, minister of music, Central Church, Brookhaven; Sharon Reid, pianist for First, Greenville; and Alice Kathryn Turner, organist at First, Greenville.

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen will present their instrumental ensemble and handbells group, as well as singing as a group.

Singers include Hubert Greer, music evangelist from Brookhaven; the church choir of First, Greenville; Ronnie Cottingham, music evangelist from Lucedale; Bobby Shurden, music evangelist from Drew; Frank Stovall, Music Department director at Mississippi College; W. C. Rainey Jr., music evangelist from Petal; Ann Colbert, music evangelist from Forest; Tom Larrimore, music evangelist from Jackson; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, music evangelist from Jackson; Denise Riley, music evangelist from Jackson; Clint Nichols, dean of the School of Music at William Carey College; Marion Lee, music evangelist from Hattiesburg; and Mike and Teresa Harland, of Parkview Church, Greenville, where he is minister of music.

Other special events during the program will be a testimony by Pat S. Burke, a layman from Clarksdale; witness training by Howard Ramsey of The Home Mission Board; and a message on "Strategy of Evangelism," by Guy Henderson, Evangelism Department director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Henderson and Keith Wilkerson, Sunday School Department director of the MBCB, will share in presiding during the conference.

## Spanish Baptists: "No more excuses!"

XATIVA, Spain — "There are no more excuses now," about the Baptists in Spain being a minority or a social ghetto, says a pastor whose church is engaged in a ministry of holding regular services and visiting patients at a newly-opened hospital.

When the Lluís Alcanyes Hospital recently began functioning in Xativa, it did more than merely open its doors to the ill. It is said to be the first hospital in Spain to open its doors to evangelicals for a ministry other than just visiting members.

Rather than invite only the Roman Catholic priest to make pastoral arrangements, hospital officials also invited Marcelino Huidobro, pastor of the Xativa Baptist Church, to help work out a schedule involving both Catholics and Protestants. Now the Catholic priest and the Baptist pastor each has an office and specific times to hold chapel services at the hospital.

## Missionaries in Lebanon: they pray, stay

By Irma Duke

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—The phrase, "the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air," has a double meaning for Americans working as Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon.

Even in late November when Lebanon celebrated its flag and independence days, observers weren't sure whether the fireworks were in celebration or renewed fighting.

Shellings are almost daily occurrences which remind them how fragile life is and how urgent the need is to spread the gospel.

"We're looking forward to the time when we can sit down for a meal and

not have to turn on the radio for the news," said Leola Ragland at the dinner table. "They're probably hitting Baptist homes now," she said as gunfire came from a certain area of the city. Mrs. Ragland and her husband, Jim, have been missionaries in Beirut since 1953.

Churches and institutions have alternate power sources for the times when fighting has damaged electrical wires. Missionaries use their car radios to get information on areas where fighting has broken out and take alternate routes if necessary.

"Being out on the road and not knowing if you're going to get home

ties me in knots," Mrs. Ragland explained.

Even though they've been spared, all the missionaries in the Beirut area have had close calls during the last 10 years. LaNell Barnes was working in her back yard in the fall of 1983 when a shell landed in her front yard. She and her husband immediately went to their basement shelter where they stayed in a dark cubbyhole for more than two hours until the noise quieted. More than 30 shells had fallen within feet of their back fence during that time.

In another incident, three MKs spent the night hovering in a school

hallway not knowing whether their parents were dead or alive. Other missionaries show where shells and shrapnel hit in their homes and offices. Two missionaries and an MK were scheduled to be near the American embassy when it was blown up but last-minute circumstances changed their plans.

In West Beirut, the missionary presence has decreased to the Raglands and two single women, one of whom is on furlough. Until the Lebanese army moved back into the Muslim-controlled west side recently, there seemed to be much more tension and less security. There hasn't

been time yet to see if the army's return will make a difference.

"Beirut is a supermarket of gangs," says Ragland, director for Beirut Baptist School. The school has bus drivers from four different groups to help ensure the schoolchildren's safety. Four of the school's pupils have been killed in incidents not related to the school.

Muslim groups join together to fight against those known as Christians, who, for the most part, live on the east side. The Christians, primarily from Maronite and Catholic backgrounds, are fighting for a Christian-controlled

(Continued on page 6)



## Baptist Men's Day

# Strengthening the family through mission involvement

By Paul Harrell

All men are involved in a family in one sense or another. They have either left the family that nourished them and are living as a single, stretching their ties with the past to a greater or lesser degree, or they are somewhere in the midst of establishing, encouraging, and growing a new family of their own. However loose the attachment, they are part of a family.

In spite of publicity to the contrary — and the battering and bruising the family has taken in recent decades — it is still the arena in which most of us play out our lives.

That alone is reason enough for the 1985 Baptist Men's Day theme to be "Strengthening the Family Through Mission Involvement." Any way we can strengthen the family is welcome in most churches and in most church organizations. But our reason for choosing this theme goes much deeper.

In her recent book, "Traits of a Healthy Family", Delores Curran lists 15 traits consistently cited by family professionals as indicative of a healthy family. One of the traits they list is particularly significant to Baptist Men: a healthy family values service to others.

The Brotherhood Commission, as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, seeks to help churches involve men and boys in missions. Mission involvement can be defined as, "service to others in the name of Christ." So much of what Baptist Men as an organization does in a local church can be looked on as a viable way of strengthening the families of the men involved.

## Comfortable

Too often families in our Southern Baptist churches do not see missions as an essential part of the normal Christian life. Instead, a style of Christian living develops that is convenient and comfortable. It usually consists of attending worship services, participating in Bible study, and doing what committee work is necessary to keep the church organization functioning. There is little, if any, emphasis on service to others in the name of Christ.

No one wants it this way. It is just the way it is . . . in too many places.

The planning material that follows uses the 1985 Baptist Men's Day celebration to address this problem. It recognizes how the men's organization of your church, and the men who participate in it, strengthen family life.

If there is not a Baptist Men's unit in your church, this is an excellent day to begin one. Use the planning materials for Baptist Men's Day and follow up with organizational suggestions for beginning Baptist Men found in the 1984-85 Baptist Men's Handbook.

The fourth Sunday is always designated Baptist Men's Day on the Southern Baptist calendar. This year

the 52nd observance of this day by our denomination falls on January 27th. If this is not a convenient date, reschedule it to fit your church calendar.

Form a special committee to plan Baptist Men's Day. Staff it to reflect the size of your church and your Baptist Men's unit. A suggested list of those who could comprise the committee might include the church Brotherhood director, the Baptist Men's president, the pastor or assigned staff member, and two or three other Baptist Men.

The committee should begin to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Become familiar with the suggestions in the 1984-85 Baptist Men's Handbook under Baptist Men's Day;
2. Decide what Baptist Men's Day should accomplish;
3. Plan activities to accomplish

these goals;

4. Determine additional people needed to carry out those goals;
5. Enlist those individuals and make assignments;
6. Secure needed materials;
7. And keep a close check on the progress of all plans and assignments.

## Resources

Helps for planning Baptist Men's Day are in *The Baptist Program* (December 1984); *The Brotherhood Builder* (January-February-March 1985).

A booklet with helpful information for planning your Baptist Men's Day is available by writing to the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Paul Harrell is director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department.

## Claude Cone named exec. for New Mexico Baptists

By J. B. Fowler

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (BP)—Claude Cone, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pampa, Tex., since 1972, was elected executive director of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico Jan. 7 at a special called meeting of the convention.

He will assume his duties March 1. He succeeds Chester O'Brien who headed the convention for 10 years before resigning to become associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Tex.

Cone, 49, grew up in western Texas and eastern New Mexico. He was saved at Riverside Baptist Church in Albuquerque in 1945 and surrendered to the ministry while a student at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces in 1954.

He graduated from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas,

and earned two degrees, including the doctor of ministry, from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

All of his pastorates have been in Texas. He was ordained at Slide Baptist Church in Lubbock in 1957 and also was pastor of churches in Crandall, Howe, Dennison and Lubbock.

A strong supporter of missions, Cone led the Pampa church to increase its Cooperative Program giving (the Southern Baptist unified budget) to 23 percent of all budgeted income. During his 12-year tenure at the church, Cooperative Program giving increased from \$41,000 to \$297,000 annually.

Fowler edits the Baptist New Mexican.

## Planning church growth is topic of seminar

Church growth is usually no accident. And one way to help make certain of growth is to plan for it.

A long-range planning seminar is set for Feb. 11-13 at the Baptist Building in Jackson to help churches make plans for growth and development.

The program, sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will feature Truman Brown and Carl Savell as conference leaders.

Brown is a consultant in the Pastoral Section of the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. And Savell is pastor of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson. Julius

Thompson, department director, will be seminar director.

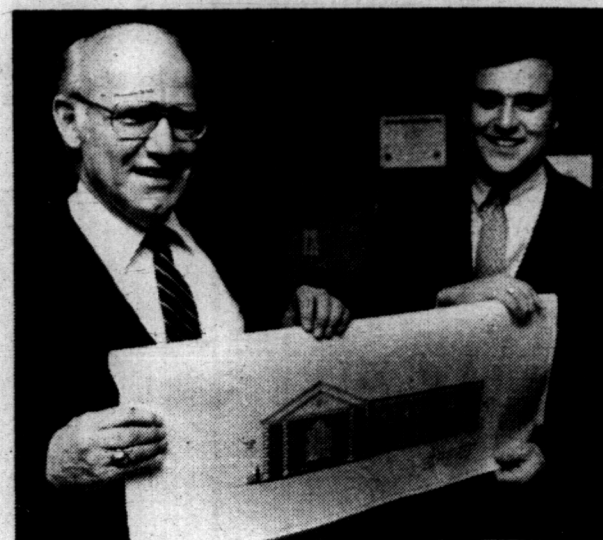
Seminar topics include "Identifying Future Church and Community Growth Opportunities for the 1980s," "Developing a Five-Year Strategy for Bold Growth," and "Planning to Use the Time of Your Life."

The seminar begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 11, and concludes at noon, Feb. 13.

Cost will be \$40 for the first representative from each church, and \$20 for each member thereafter. Cost includes the planning resource *Leading Your Church in Long-Range Planning* and other materials.

To register, write Julius Thompson at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone (601) 968-3800. Feb. 4 is registration deadline.

First Baptist Church of Pascagoula is planning to break ground Jan. 20 to add a million dollar-plus educational wing. M. H. Travis, chairman of the building program, and Dennis L. Johnsey, pastor of the church, are pictured here.

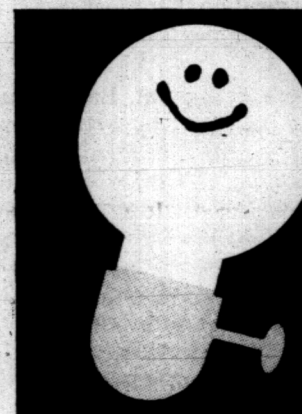


### FBC, Pascagoula plans wing

## One million scriptures provided for Manila '85

EAST BRUNSWICK, N.J. (EP)—The International Bible Society will help provide one million New Testaments for Manila '85, an evangelistic outreach program aimed at bringing one million people to faith in Christ during 1985.

The Bible Society is cooperating in the evangelism effort with Action International Ministries (AIM), the sponsor of Manila '85, and with the World Home Bible League, which will share in the cost of publishing the scriptures.



### TURN A LITTLE LIGHT ON HOME MISSIONS!

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BR2



# Baptist Joint Committee joins Vatican challenge

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)—Insisting President Reagan is bound by the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has asked a federal district court to strike down as unconstitutional Reagan's appointment last year of an ambassador to the Vatican.

The Washington-based agency, representing the church-state interests of eight U.S. Baptist bodies—including the Southern Baptist Convention—submitted its views Jan. 7 in a case brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, more than 15 religious bodies, and numerous individuals challenging diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the Holy See.

In a dramatic reversal of policy, the White House and the Holy See jointly announced in January 1984 they were immediately establishing full diplomatic relations.

Although several recent U.S. presidents, including Reagan, have stationed personal representatives at the Vatican, the move followed congressional reversal of an 1867 ban against formal diplomatic recognition.

That ban followed a 60-year period at the beginning of U.S. history of full diplomatic relations, a period which ended in 1848 when the papal states ceased to exist and the Vatican became a 108-acre enclave in the heart of Rome.

## No debate

Because the new arrangement required formal reversal of the 1867 ban, the White House called on longtime advocate of renewed U.S.-Vatican ties, Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., to lead the way. Lugar managed to secure Senate reversal on a voice vote with no debate.

Reagan subsequently sent the name of his personal representative, longtime political ally William A. Wilson, to the Senate for approval as the new ambassador to the Vatican. And although opponents of the new arrangement were able to voice their alarm during a one-day confirmation hearing, the Senate quickly confirmed Wilson's nomination last March.

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel John W. Baker, in a friend-of-the-court brief to the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania, declared "the President's power to appoint ambassadors is limited by the establishment clause."

Baker cited the 1947 Supreme Court decision in *Everson v. Board of Education*, a ruling which held the establishment clause "means at least this: Neither a state nor the Federal Government can... pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions or prefer one religion over another. No tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion."

By reestablishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican, Baker continued, Reagan violated all three parts of another high court test—first

enunciated in 1971—that governmental actions must reflect a secular purpose, must have the primary effect of neither advancing nor inhibiting religion, and must not excessively entangle government with religion.

Besides the establishment clause arguments, the Baptist Joint Committee brief directly attacked the government's assertion in the case that those bringing suit do not have proper standing to do so because of presidential prerogatives in setting American foreign policy.

But Baker, acknowledging that Article II of the Constitution vests in the President the power to appoint and receive ambassadors, insisted nevertheless, "The President must exercise his powers... within the strictures" of the First Amendment.

Both sides in the dispute appear to agree a key determination to be made by the courts is the question of whether the Vatican is essentially a sovereign nation-state or a religious body. Baker's statement to the district court takes issue with the government's position that renewed relations are those of one sovereign state with another.

To make his point, Baker cited an address last year by Archbishop Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio—or ambassador—to the U.S., in which Laghi declared, "It is... the Pope's religious authority which confers upon him the classical right of legation, a diplomatic standing in the world." Laghi added: "Those who interpret Papal Diplomacy as emanating from the Pope's temporal sovereignty are failing to understand the true nature of the mission of the Holy See."

In its concluding section, the Baptist Joint Committee brief argued the new diplomatic relationships

"seriously jeopardizes the missionary programs" of U.S.-based churches.

"Because of anti-American, anti-religious and anti-democratic sentiments in many of the developing countries," Baker wrote, "missionaries and other persons representing religious institutions could actually become symbols of American governmental interest."

Haste writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.

## Key Leader Seminars will run all year at Baptist Building

The Sky Room of the Baptist Building in Jackson will become the classroom for a series of Key Leader Seminars in 1985, according to Chester Vaughn, program director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Said Vaughn, "The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is attempting to provide advanced seminar-type training in a variety of programs." During the year these seminars will be held in eight program areas providing specific training for leadership in those areas.

The eight areas are Church Music, Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Union, Evangelism, Church Training, Church Administration, Cooperative Missions, and Brotherhood.

Dates and titles of the seminars are March 5, The Junior High Voice; April 13, Leading the Small Sunday School to Grow; May 7, Making Missions Education Happen; June 25, The Evangelistic Church; Sept. 10, How to Build a Strong Discipleship Training Program; Oct. 17, The First Two

Years, a Pastor's Guide; Nov. 1-2, Associational Missions Development Program; and Dec. 7, A Journey Just Beginning (for Brotherhood leadership).

All but the two-day associational missions seminar meet from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A \$10 registration fee covers the cost of a lunch and appropriate study guide books. Each seminar will award study-course credit to participants who successful-

ly complete the course requirements.

Registration must be received on Friday of the week before the day of the seminar. To register, write program director's office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Members of the MBCB Church Study Course Committee which designs the seminars are Mos Dangerfield, chairman; Jim Dillake Dot Pray; Patricia Simmons; Bill Hudgens; and Julius Thompson.

Thursday, January 17, 1985

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## Festival anthem available through toll-free number

Those planning to participate in the Young Musicians' Festival, April 13, at the Mississippi College coliseum, need to obtain an anthem which was not in the January 1985 issue of Young Musicians magazine.

The anthem, "There is a Name," should have been in the magazine, but was mistakenly omitted.

Participants may obtain copies by phoning toll free, 1-800-368-7421, telling that the music is for the Young Musicians' Festival. The code for the piece is 4172-05, Van

Ness Press, and costs 65¢ per copy. It will be ready for shipping in early February.

Those who have not yet received the festival handbook, may phone the Church Music Department office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at 968-3800. The music must be memorized before attendance at the festival. There will be three hymn arrangements plus two other anthems.

Guest clinician will be Mabel Sample of New Wilmington, Pa.

## Administrators to hear church use of computers

A statewide church business administrators' conference, only the second ever scheduled will take place Jan. 24 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This meeting, sponsored by the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association and the Church Administration-

### 47th new building

PECS, Hungary — The Baptist congregation at Pecs, the second largest in the Baptist Union of Hungary, has completed a new chapel with 660 seats in addition to a number of rooms and facilities for Bible study groups.

But at the recent dedication services, fifteen hundred persons packed the chapel over a two-day period to worship, hear greetings from other churches and organizations, and listen to the congregation's several choirs sing hymns of celebration.

The new chapel is the 47th to be built during recent years by Baptists in Hungary.

Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is free for all individuals handling the business affairs of churches.


Leaders for the conference will be Larry Jones, Marvin Myers, and Ken Lundquist. Jones is consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and will shortly become minister of education at First Church, Mobile. Myers is executive director of the National Association of Church Business Administrators, Ft. Worth. And Lundquist is business manager of First Church, Jackson.

Topics of discussion at the meeting include "Improving Your Ministry with Church Policies," "Strengthening Your Role in Administration," and "Improving Your Operation Through Use of Computers."

For more information, contact Julius Thompson, MBCB, phone 968-3800; or James Webster, Hinds-Madison Association, phone 362-8676.

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"...for such a time as this."  
Esther 4:14





An Argentine Baptist family from Buenos Aires toured the Baptist Building in Jackson on Jan. 8, and found a map of their country in Don Mines' office. Left to right, they are Elida and Pedro Lelkes, Iris, Lorena, Guillermo, and Lillian — with Jean

Glaze, former missionary to Argentina. The family visited in the home of Jean and Jack Glaze in Clinton. Iris came to the States to enroll this semester at Mississippi College.

## Argentine family visits U.S. to enroll daughter, Iris, at MC

By Anne W. McWilliams

"In Christ there is no east or west" — in him no Argentina and Britain. This proved true during the Baptist Youth World Congress held last year in Argentina. Young people from Britain attended the meeting in Buenos Aires. Youths from both countries were able to lay aside bitter memories of the War in the Falklands as they met together as one in Christian love.

Iris Lelkes, a high school senior in Buenos Aires who could speak English almost as well as Spanish, served as interpreter and guide for the delegates from England. They were also guests in her home.

Last week Iris Lelkes enrolled at Mississippi College as a freshman. All of her family came with her to the United States for a visit. She will room in a dorm with Ann Mabry of Gulfport.

Everyone in her family can speak both English and Spanish. Her brother, Guillermo (Willie), rates in the top ten tennis players for his age

group (14) in Argentina. He plans to stay in Mississippi until some time in February to take tennis lessons in Jackson. He said he hopes to become a professional tennis player.

Her sister, Lillian, a high school senior, celebrated her 17th birthday in Mississippi on Jan. 8. Her younger sister, Lorena, is 7. Their father, Pedro Lelkes, works with the Quaker Oats Company in Buenos Aires.

The mother Elida, is the daughter of a Baptist pastor, the late Antonino Quattrocchi, who was "a very good friend," she said, of Jack Glaze. "That was how we got to know the Glazes."

When Jean and Jack Glaze went to Argentina last year on a partnership endeavor, they several times attended the Lelkes' church, San Isidio, a suburb of Buenos Aires.

They questioned Iris about where she planned to go to college; she said she didn't know. "Why not come to Mississippi College?" they asked. Jack is on the faculty there, and the

Glazes live in Clinton.

"Things just fell into place," her mother said. "Iris knew right away that was where she wanted to go."

Earlier, when a group of Mississippi women had gone to Argentina, two had stayed in the Lelkes' home, Mrs. Frank Gunn and Mrs. Carolyn Kee. Iris heard them talking about the Mississippi — Argentina Baptist Partnership, and recalls that she felt then she wanted to learn more about it and more about Mississippi.

They came to the States on their mid-summer vacation. (Mid-winter here is mid-summer there). They left home on Dec. 17 and stayed until Jan. 10.

In their church, Mrs. Lelkes (nickname, Lidita) teaches young people in Sunday School. She is also on the Women's Evangelism Committee for Argentine Baptists. She said, "We have enjoyed meeting the Mississippi groups who have come down. Many local people have said they did, too. I think it is a good, profitable relationship."

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## Missionaries in Lebanon will "pray and stay"

(Continued from page 3)

government, fearing Muslim control above everything.

At times, Ragland says he feels like he's in a mobile home on a hill in Oklahoma waiting to get hit by a tornado but not knowing from which direction or when. From February through May, the Raglands slept in their hallway.

While missionaries on the east side have not lived under as much tension as those on the west, they, too, have worked under some difficult circumstances and have had their ministries curtailed.

The Baptist radio and television studio, one of four international Baptist ministries based in Beirut, has not missed a broadcast but many programs have had to be rerun because production schedules were at a standstill. And their follow-up, dependent upon the mail system, was impossible during certain periods because the airport and seaport were closed.

Shells were exploding overhead as missionaries Wayne and Frances Fuller completed the Arabic test edition of MasterLife, a Southern Baptist program for training in discipleship.

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary is hurting also. Classes have been cancelled at times. The enrollment is down to seven full-time students and two part-time ones. Even though the seminary is international, only two foreign students are willing to study there under current conditions. Yet, the churches are facing pastor shortages.

And local church work has suffered the loss of members. One missionary said for a while he was going to a funeral almost every day to mourn with church family or friends.

Under such conditions, why don't Southern Baptist missionaries leave? Mrs. Ragland answered without hesitating. "And leave 800 kids? I can't." Beirut Baptist School would probably close if they left. She says at times she has wished she could say God has led her to leave or move to the other side, but he hasn't.

"We haven't borne anything compared to what a lot of the nationals have," says Mabel Summers, who will soon retire after almost 35 years in Lebanon. "It's based on a call," she added. "I think you'll stay if the Lord calls you."

"You see things happening," says Mack Sacco. "The church is alive." When he and his wife returned recently from furlough, their four children came back with them. He feels right about it, but it was a difficult decision to make.

They all believe God has unfinished work for them to do and that's why they've been spared. In spite of the situation, churches are growing and the convention president says they hope to double their membership to 1,500 between now and 1993, the 100th anniversary of Baptist work in Lebanon.

"We work together," says Pete Dunn. "We stay and we pray."

(Irma Duke and photographer Don Rutledge, both of the Foreign Mission Board, have just returned from a 10-day stay in Beirut.)

Except a living man there is nothing more wonderful than a book! a message to us from . . . human souls we never saw . . . And yet these arouse us, terrify us, teach us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers. — Kingsley

### Mississippi Baptist activities

- Jan. 24 Church Business Administrators Conference; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- District Keyboard Festivals; 6:30 p.m.; FBC, Clinton/FBC, Laurel/FBC, McComb/Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (CM)
- Jan. 25 District Keyboard Festivals; 6:30 p.m.; FBC, Starkville/FBC, Grenada/Temple BC, Hattiesburg (CM)
- 25-26 Singles' Conference; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 25th-5 p.m., 26th (CAC)
- 25-26 Effective Workshops; Colonial Heights BC, Jackson; 5:30 p.m., 25th-11:30 a.m., 26th (SS)
- 26-26 Young Ministers' Wives Retreat; Camp Garaywa; 5:30 p.m., 25th-2:30 p.m., 26th (WMU)
- Jan. 26 District Keyboard Festivals; 9:30 a.m.; FBC, Gulfport/FBC, Greenville/Colonial Hills BC, Southaven/Colonial Heights BC, Jackson, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (CM)

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# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

## A dozen resolutions

If I make my resolutions two weeks past New Year's Day, that means two weeks less this year to break them. Right? I read an article by Margaret di Canio called "Guide for coping with daily stress." Here's how I propose to apply her suggestions to my own situations.

I will take a trip one weekend per month — to some place I've never been — another town in the state, another state, another country.

I will do something for fun every day — go see the agricultural museum, eat at a restaurant where I've never eaten before, read a mystery novel, plant a flower, try a new recipe, sit in the park and soak up sunshine while I watch the birds . . . .

I will exercise more — when the elevator doors open, head for the stairs; roll my bicycle out of the storage room and pump up the flat tires; walk around the Capitol; enroll in an aerobics class; paint my house; rearrange my office furniture . . . .

I will relax occasionally — maybe even go so far as to lie down somewhere ten minutes a day.

I will treat W. D. like a king so he will treat me like a queen. (Yep, I've

been reading Ann Landers.) That sounds like a variation of the Golden Rule. I'll try it on others around me, too.

I will review the pronunciation of the word, "No."

I will try not to get upset when I'm disappointed or when my carefully laid plans have to be discarded.

To make life simpler, I will go through every room, closet, drawer, and file in my house, and office, and throw away or give away the non-essentials (if I can figure out what non-essential means).

I will write shorter letters.

I will keep trying to eliminate errors from articles I write. When I list people, I will not leave out anyone, especially not anyone as nice and sweet as Holly Hawkins. (She's one of our fourth grade GAs at Morrison Heights, and she went on a mission action outing in December, along with others I listed in the Dec. 20 Baptist Record.)

In my early morning time for Bible reading, I will find and memorize a promise that I can take with me through the day, to give me serenity and a feeling of security.

I will pray — and then leave my problems and petitions in His hands.

## Book Reviews

**THE GRAVEDIGGER FILE: PAPERS ON THE SUBVERSION OF THE MODERN CHURCH.** By Os Guinness; Inter-Varsity Press, 1983; 245 pages; paperback, \$6.95.

In this fascinating book Os Guinness has adopted C. S. Lewis's "Screw-tape" device to present his argument. The "Gravedigger Files" are ostensibly memos circulated among the devil's intelligence operatives. Unfortunately Guinness does not have the wit of Lewis, and the style gets in the way of his message. Nevertheless Guinness's message is clear and very interesting.

He is writing to inform the Christian reader of the danger of secular humanism. He says that the primary danger is not what the humanists are saying but rather how much humanism has pervaded the church and the lifestyles of individual Christians.

Guinness feels that the church is deep into cultural captivity. "The church contributed to the creation of the modern world. Soon she was committed to that world without reservation. Before long she was hopelessly contaminated — in the world and up to her neck."

Guinness recently completed his D. Phil. in the study of sociology at Oxford University. His studies in sociology greatly enrich this book and demonstrate, by the way, how important it is to understand religious trends and fads from a sociological standpoint.

Guinness has made accessible to a wide audience the tremendously

helpful insights of several leading sociologists, especially Peter Berger.

I would have liked the book better had it been written in a straightforward style without the "Screw-tape" device. But the book is challenging, informational, and rewarding. — Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

**SHELTERED BY THE KING** by Marta, with Sandra Aldrich (Chosen Books, 128 pp.) In a time when the spotlight is on Ethiopia and its hungry millions, here is a book about that land. It is a true story about the first woman ever to sit in the Ethiopian Senate. It is a Cinderella story, with a happy ending, but Marta (the fictitious name given the main character) went through some harrowing ordeals in order to escape from Ethiopia when the Communists took over there.

Marta, daughter of missionary-helpers, became a good friend of the nation's ruler, Haile Selassie. She studied in the United States, and later found a career in government. During the national crisis, her abilities were tested. Finally, after Selassie's death, Marta was placed on a list of those "wanted for execution." But she and her family crossed a desert and crashed unbelievable barriers to get into Kenya. Their prayers were answered and their safety assured, she still believes, because they were "sheltered by the King." Her story of how God gave them his never-failing protection is full of suspense — and inspiration, too. — AWM

Thursday, January 17, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

### Need in Nebraska

Editor:

Greetings from Nebraska in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I'm sure you seldom get letters from pastors in Nebraska, but we have an urgent need to share with our fellow Southern Baptists in your state convention. Our church may lose its building in the next six months unless God gives us a miracle.

We moved to Nebraska on Jan. 23, 1984, from a small pastorate in Mississippi, which is my home state. I had felt God leading me to serve in pioneer missions for several years, so it was no surprise when an opportunity opened up in Omaha, Neb. (which, by the way, is my wife's home town). We accepted the pastorate of a church which had seen its attendance drop from nearly 300 in worship to only eight or nine persons. This drastic change resulted from a combination of factors over a five-year period, but we felt strongly that God wanted us to accept the challenge of rebuilding it. We are the only constituted Southern Baptist church in the entire northern half of Omaha! Within a three mile radius are nearly 90,000 persons and 32,000 homes. We could see tremendous potential for this strategic location.

Our greatest hindrance, though, is a \$90,000 debt to the Home Mission Board on the building which was built eight years ago when the church was at its peak financially and numerically. The monthly payments on the building alone are \$1,023. With a current active membership of 20, you can see our dilemma. Should we sell out, close up shop, and let 25 years of ministry to north Omaha vanish because of a critical financial need?

Southern Baptists have the resources to meet this challenge. There has to be a way to continue this vital outreach without giving up our building. Please, won't you pray that God will meet our needs by touching the hearts of individuals or churches within our convention? We need your help to enable this ministry to continue to grow as I believe it will. For more information, write to Raven Oaks Baptist Church, 7818 Raven Oaks Drive, Omaha, NE 68152. Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Bill Lollar, Pastor  
Raven Oaks Baptist Church  
Omaha, Neb.

### Aid in West Virginia

Editor:

Praise God that Southern Baptists are a denomination that places great emphasis on missions. Because of the outreach of missions all over the world, thousands are being reached and helped each day. When we see the starvation in Ethiopia, our hearts are broken. When we see the devastation in Mexico City, we mourn. When we look at our picture window on a hurting world we do what we can to

relieve the hurt. But, please when you look out the picture window, don't forget to look out the back door.

Being a member of a Southern Baptist Mission in Rock Cave, West Virginia, I am daily confronted with hunger just by meeting friends and neighbors. I am daily confronted with inadequate clothing, housing, medical care, and true Christian concern. Thank God New Covenant Southern Baptist Mission is doing as much as it can to alleviate the hunger, clothing, and Christian lack of concern. We now have 280 families on our food ministry. Since the first of October we have distributed over three tons of clothes through our clothing ministry. We have a jail ministry, a senior ministry, a youth ministry, and to round out the week, home Bible studies. We are reaching and ministering to well over 1,000 people and we number, in total, less than 60. Each man, woman, and child at New Covenant ministers to more than 20. All of this is a miracle in that we have a budget of less than \$11,000. God is truly blessing us with miracles at every hand. We are but one of many Southern Baptist missions in West Virginia.

When you look out that picture window onto a hurting world, please don't forget to look at us in the back yard. The field is truly ripe to harvest and the laborers are so very few. If you as an individual or as a church feel led to make a difference, please contact the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia, 30300; the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, 801 Sixth Avenue, St. Albans, West Virginia 25177; or us, New Covenant Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 68, Rock Cave, West Virginia 26234.

Please keep us in persistent prayer.  
Frank Brubaker, Trustee  
New Covenant Baptist Church  
Rock Cave, W. Va.

### Did you know that in 1984 . . . ?

Editor:

The Home of Grace for men averaged 100 men per day. This number included alcoholics, drug addicts, men without jobs, etc.

The Home of Grace for Women and Children (The Haven) averaged 18 per day. This number included alcoholics, drug addicts, battered wives, and women and children just needing temporary emergency shelter.

The Home of Grace Senior Citizen's Home (The Shelter) averaged 26 men per day.

Our Daily Bread—We furnished a van, gas, and three men to help

deliver food to shut-in's five days a week.

Ocean Springs Workshop—We send four men a day to learn cabinet and wood work.

Humane Society, Ocean Springs—We help this project by supplying manpower.

Vanceleave School—We had eight men and women to complete their G.E.D.'s and 12 others working on completion. Fifteen received certificates in welding, air-conditioning, and refrigeration classes.

Vanceleave Rescue Unit—We have two ambulance drivers, one E.M.T. Graduate and C.P.R. trained.

Vanceleave Volunteer Fire Department—Several helpers, one in training to be a driver.

Vanceleave Cemetery—We cut grass and keep cemetery clean on Jim Ramsey Road.

Three of the Home of Grace graduates went to Toccoa Falls Bible College in September to study for Christian Service.

We operate rummage stores in Moss Point and Vanceleave as a public service and to help support our various homes.

The Men's Home, Haven, and Shelter, have devotion each morning and have service each night. On Sundays they visit 10 different churches that send a van, bus, or car to pick them up.

We the Alumni of the Homes of Grace, appreciate the support, prayers, and interest of so many people in this ministry.

Houston Moore, President  
Home of Grace Alumni  
Gautier, Miss.

### Prayer for journalists

FORT WORTH, Texas — National (USA) President Phil Record of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, looked back over his 1984 year in office recently in his column for the Society's magazine, "The Quill."

"I have frequently turned to prayer for peace, strength and wisdom . . ." he writes. "I would like to leave you with a prayer for journalists that I have said at least once a week for years."

The prayer of Mr. Record, who is on the staff of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, is:

"Lord, lead us to the truth;  
Let us always be fair in our quest for it;  
Give us the wisdom to recognize it,  
And the courage to proclaim it as we find it to be,  
Not as we wish it to be."

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## SCRAPBOOK

## Lottie Moon reports . . .

## Moorhead far exceeds goal for offering

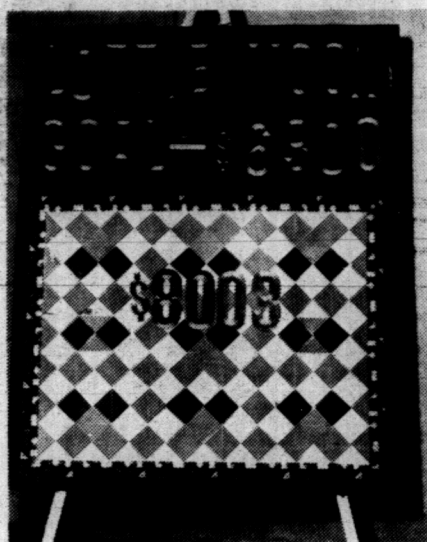
Moorhead Church at Moorhead has passed its goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions — and almost doubled the goal.

The goal was \$1,500. Gifts so far have totaled \$2,381.00, according to Bob Smith, pastor.

The Lottie Moon emphasis in the church began three weeks before the Week of Prayer. For three consecutive Sundays, missionary organizations presented programs, calling attention to the coming offering and week of prayer for missions.

The GAs paraded with the flags of the nations. The minister of music, Joe Corley, made a speech, using the subject of the Great Commission. Two Acteens, the next Sunday, Elizabeth Smith and Amy Warnock, quoted the 23rd Psalm, the Indian version and the King James Version. On the third Sunday, Mission Friends sang three songs, as special music. Rob Warnock, deacon and Brotherhood president, spoke on "Why I give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering." Mrs. Carolyn Roberts, Acteens director, presented the Prayer Calendar and directed the prayer period for missionaries on each of the three Sundays.

Then Baptist Women met for special programs during the Week of Prayer.



Second Avenue Church, Laurel, set a goal of \$6,300.00 for its 1984 Lottie Moon Offering. This represented an increase of \$800.00 over its goal the year before. Members went over their goal on Dec. 16, and by Dec. 30 had received over \$8,000.00 for foreign missions. Says WMU Director Peggy Wolgamott, "We are gratified because we know that our Lord is glorified through this manifestation of sacrificial giving by many people in our church."

## Fernwood gives double its goal

Fernwood Church, Gulf Coast Association, gave double its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal in the first two weeks of December. On missions night, Mrs. Emily Green, newly appointed missionary to Argentina, spoke on partnership in missions.

## 1st, Magnolia breaks record

First Church, Magnolia, gave a record amount to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions in 1984. Farris Smith, pastor, reports that the church, with 481 resident members, has exceeded its goal of \$10,000 by giving \$10,033.43 (at the time of his report.) This marks the fifth consecutive year that the church has recorded an increase in foreign mission gifts. This amount also represents an increase of 25 percent over last year's total of \$8,300. Smith also notes that this is the first time that a mission gift from the church has reached the five-figure level.

The church has been actively led by its missions organizations in emphasizing this effort. Mrs. Lucille Shockley is Woman's Missionary Union director; Mack Honea is Brotherhood director.

## Former Laurel pastor dies

Thomas R. McKibbens, 71, died Jan. 5 at Jones County Community Hospital, following a lengthy illness.



McKibbens of First, Laurel, were completed.

The funeral service was held on Jan. 8 at First Church, Laurel. Officiating ministers were Larry W. Kennedy, pastor, First Church, Laurel, and Julian W. Fagan, pastor, First Church, Pontotoc.

McKibbens was born June 14, 1913, at Hanceville, Ala., and studied at the University of Jacksonville, Ala. He was graduated from Howard College (Saford), and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Before coming to Laurel, he held pastorates in Stanford, Ky., and Roanoke, Ala.

In the early 60s, he was chairman of the Executive Committee, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. In 1961, he was first vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Also he had served as a trustee at William Carey College and on other Mississippi Baptist committees, as well as SBC committees. He had been a member of the SBC Historical Commission. In 1959, he was a speaker at the Southern Baptist Convention. William Carey College conferred on him the doctor of divinity degree.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Manly Riddle McKibbens; two sons, Ben M. McKibbens, Harlingen, Tex. and T. R. McKibbens Jr., Wake Forest, N.C.; one brother; two sisters; and six grandchildren.

To avoid criticism, say nothing, do nothing.

## Walking meditation

The Creator gave you this day;  
He will see you safely through it.

There is a purpose in your existence.  
This may not be revealed to you,  
But you must trust that it is there.

Do not ask for specific gifts.  
The Creator has seen the mystery  
played out;

Your needs on a certain day are not  
hidden from him.

Ask only in faith to find within  
yourself

Whatever qualities the tests require

That you may go as far forward in  
spirit

As possible in this day.

The Creator is good.  
He blesses us in untold ways.

If your spirit is sickened by  
loneliness

He can be a balm to the heart.  
There is no one lonelier than he.

He is the great physician;  
And all sciences are in his plan.

All beautiful sensations are from the  
dreams of God  
Before he imparted reality unto us.

Thank him

For the peace that is yours.

—Rokki Leigh Reeves, Jackson  
(Dedicated to her grandmother,  
Lois Valentine)

## I have connections

I don't have great wealth, and I don't  
have fame

But I am an heiress just the same.

My father owns the rocks and the rills  
He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

The breath taking mountains — he  
owns every one —

He owns the stars, the moon and the  
sun,

The ocean that roars with pounding  
surf

Makes me realize just how much I am  
worth.

By this world's standards I'm con-  
sidered poor

But I have connections at heaven's  
door

And my heavenly Father is richer, I  
know,

Than all the rich men on this earth  
below.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager  
State Line

## Those empty pews

Dear Lord, as I looked about  
In church today

There were many pews untaken.  
It made me wonder if someone

your great love and privilege  
had forsaken.

The sermons our pastor preached  
today

From your Holy Word were  
true —

And just think how much fell  
On the empty pew.

I wonder if the ones who missed  
The wonderful times we shared

Even thought of their neglect,  
Or if they even cared.

I can't imagine how they felt  
For missing God's Good News —

The ones who should have filled  
All those empty pews.

—Mrs. J. E. Franklin  
Oxford

## Devotional

## God: agent of growth

By Keith Wilkinson

It had been a trying day. For some reason, it seemed, I was not getting ahead. Not that I hadn't tried. I was doing the best I knew how. Yet, it was not enough. I felt frustrated.



Wilkinson

Without purpose, I picked up my Bible and began reading Philippians. As I neared the end of verse six, it suddenly took command of my total attention. Quickly I reread it: "And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

"Wow," I thought, "That's it!"

Had I been worrying more than I needed? Was not God already doing his work within me?

Perhaps I just needed to have confidence in what he was doing to help me grow in his grace!

Strange how insights come when we read the scriptures.

Sometimes we read a passage over and over again. It becomes familiar, and even though we appreciate its message, we are not really changed by it. Then, like my experience that day, a familiar passage springs to new life. And we are made different because of it.

Reading Philippians 1:6 that trying day helped me put several things into perspective.

1. God is the initiator of our growth. How many of us really grow spiritually when we set out to grow? Countless books suggest that we can prescribe our own growth by setting goals and accomplishing certain actions of personal growth. Perhaps. For me, growth has come from unplanned and unexpected sources. I believe growth results when we get involved in God's mission. The struggle, pain, and opportunities that result are the soils from which spiritual growth springs forth.

2. God is the agent of growth. He, it is, who wants us to grow, and he, it is, who enables us to grow. My own attempts resemble the spectacle of lifting myself by my own shoestrings.

3. Completeness of growth (maturity) is realized only on the day of Christ's return. None of us has made it yet.

Humbled and reassured, I was glad God was not finished with me yet.

Keith Wilkinson is director, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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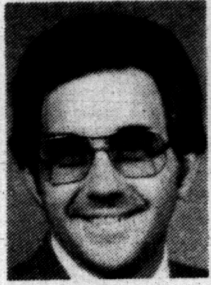
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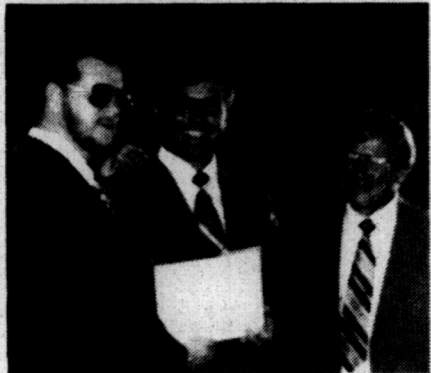
## Names in the News

Richard White has resigned as pastor of Cambridge Church, Gautier. He has entered full-time evangelism, and is available for revivals or Bible studies. His home address is 302 Petal Drive, Petal, MS 39465 (phone 601-583-8283).



White

Wilkie Holmes was ordained as a deacon on Jan. 13 by Tylertown Church. Loeson Stogner gave the charge to the deacons. Ansel Estess gave the charge to the church. Bartis Harper is pastor.



Oral Church, Lamar County, licensed Glendon Dale Saucier on Nov. 4, to the gospel ministry. Jerry Lennep, Oral pastor, presented the certificate of license. Also in attendance was Doug Benedict, Lamar director of missions. Saucier and his wife, Virginia, and their four daughters live at Route 15, Box 626, Hattiesburg. He can be contacted by phone at 758-3842.



Four were ordained as deacons in South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, on Sunday evening, Jan. 6. Left to right, they are Ron Ward, Frank Johnston, Larry Douglas, and Vic Simmons. Gibbie McMillan is pastor.

## Staff Changes

Macedonia Church, Northwest Association, has called Tim Cline as pastor. Cline has been a member of Colonial Hills Church in the same association for several years.

Center Hill Church, Northwest Association, has called John Adair as associate pastor.

Newhebron Church has called S. A. (Sonny) Adkins as pastor. Adkins had been serving in full-time evangelism.

Martha A. Woody has resigned as youth director of Central Church, Golden (Tishomingo) in order to complete her master's degree in music education at Mississippi College.

Dwayne L. Tinker has assumed the staff position of minister of education at Calvary Church, Tupelo. He, his wife Angie and three children moved from Knoxville, Tenn., where he held a similar position at Smithwood Church. Tinker holds degrees from Lambuth College, Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Bill Stanford has been called as pastor of Twin Lakes Church, Hinds-Madison Association.



Milton Koon (left), pastor of Gaston Church, near Booneville is shown presenting a certificate of license to preach the gospel to Mark Palmer (right). Mark is the son of Frank Palmer of Booneville. Mark is available for pulpit supply (phone 728-5385).

Calvary Church, Braxton, will feature James Young as the guest speaker for the morning service on Jan. 20. Young is a missionary to Bangladesh. Henry J. Bennett is pastor.

Three deacons were ordained at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.: Ronnie Kent, David Williams, Warren Dunn.

Mrs. Lily Culp has completed the course requirements and received the Sunday School Advanced Leadership Diploma in Children's Work. She is a member of Central Church, Golden.

## Pickering to speak at Wake Forest

Wake Forest Church, Sturgis, Oktibeha Association, will observe Baptist Men's Day on Jan. 20. Charles Pickering of Laurel, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be guest speaker. Lunch will be served at the church, announces Tim Horton, pastor.

## Mid-America grads

Of December 21 graduates of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, the following were from Mississippi:

Master of Divinity—Steven Paul Blake; Diploma of Theology—Norman Charles Shilling.

Steven Blake is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Blake of Columbus. He will be serving as the associate pastor for the Beacon Light Baptist Church, Vernon, New York.

Norman Shilling is the son of Jim and Christine Ramsey of Talihina, Okla. He is the pastor of Blue Lake Baptist Church, Lambert, Miss.

## Just for the Record

Oakvale Church recently held a recognition service for five Acteens and one GA. They were Sandy Fitzhugh, Sherry Turnage Hill, Tanya Hilton, Nanette Ward, Tracey Fitzhugh, and Melissa Summers. The girls were given bracelets with the Queen's crown, a long-stemmed rose in an array of colors (one color for each girl who participated.) The flowers were presented by Miss Rhonda Stamps. The mothers crowned the girls and the girls in turn pinned their mothers with red-silk rose corsages. The girls had completed all the steps required to be crowned as queen in the Acteen organization. Miss Summers had completed Mission Adventures One and she received her Mission Adventure Badge and pin.

Hillsboro Church, (Scott Assn.) recently honored its pastor, Ricky Gray, and family with Pastor Appreciation Day. The Grays were given a money tree and gifts of clothes.

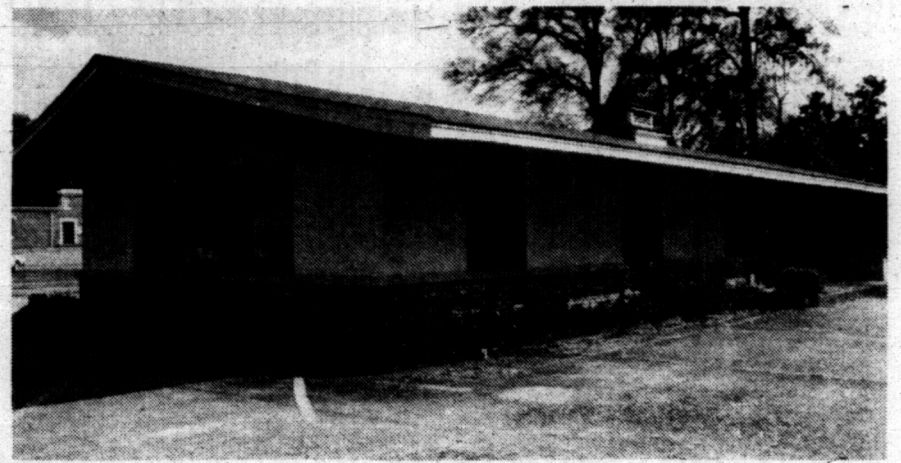
First, Magnolia has one Sunday School class in a local nursing home and recently has begun another in a newly constructed satellite prison facility. In addition, the church has begun an annual mission trip and building project and has been involved with church construction in New Mexico the past two summers.

## Revival Dates

Pinelake (Rankin): lay renewal weekend; Feb. 22 — 24; Sidney Ellis, layman, Greenville, director; services begin at 6 p.m. Friday and continue all day Saturday and all day Sunday; Judy Busbee, local coordinator; Lannie Wilbourn, pastor.

## Natchez keyboard festival cancelled

The District Keyboard Festival scheduled for First Baptist Church, Natchez, Friday, Jan. 25, has been cancelled. If there are questions, please contact the Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, 968-3800.



## Temple's activities center used to be Duley's

By Fitz McCoy

Once, it was a popular Hattiesburg restaurant, a favorite for barbeque cuisine.

Now, after recent renovations, it serves as an equally popular gathering place for the young people of Temple Baptist Church.

It's the church's new Activities Center located in what used to be Duley's Restaurant, and the young people think it's such a marvelous idea that there is hardly a night they aren't using it.

"I love it," said Temple Bush, a University of Southern Mississippi sophomore. "It has opened up a lot of new opportunities for youth."

"It gives us more space and a lot more things to do," said 8th grader Melissa Loustalot. "It's a great place for us to get together and have fellowship."

The center now provides a lounge area, game room, kitchen and other facilities including a kiln for ceramic classes, according to Richard Davis, minister of youth.

On Monday nights, he said, they get together to watch Monday night football in the game room, and on Wednesday nights, there are Bible studies for junior high through college-age students.

The center, which was formally dedicated in September, is also housing a 12th grade Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings until new space becomes available. Harry Lucenay is Temple pastor.

Fitz McCoy is former weekend editor and a columnist for the Hattiesburg American and a member of Temple Church.

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## Sparrow joins Cargill Associates

FORT WORTH, Texas — Eldon K. Sparrow, former director of the Broadcast Engineering Department of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Tex., has joined Cargill Associates as a consultant in the institutional division, Robert L. Cargill, president,



Sparrow has announced.

Cargill Associates is a Fort Worth-based fund raising consulting firm which raises money for institutions and churches nationwide.

Sparrow served with the Radio and Television Commission for nearly 14 years as vice president and later director of the broadcast engineering department and as campaign director of the commission's multi-city Second Step campaigns.

A native of California, Sparrow was graduated from the University of Mississippi and attended graduate school there. He also attended Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

He is married to Bonita Sparrow, a Mississippi native and director of promotion for the Radio and Television Commission.

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## Seminary to sponsor conference for women

NEW ORLEANS — A special conference for women titled "By Love Compelled" will be held at New Orleans Seminary Monday evening, Jan. 28.

Registration begins at 5 p.m., with the conference lasting from 6 to 9 p.m. in Martin Chapel on the seminary campus. There is no charge.

The conference will discuss "the opportunities for women to witness in today's world, especially in cities," according to Thomas Kinchen, director

of continuing education at the seminary.

Speakers include Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC and Ann Carlino, assistant professor of social work at the seminary.

All interested women are invited. Participants may register the night of the conference or pre-register by contacting Kinchen at the seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126 or call him at 504-282-4455.

## Former Mississippi pastor elected by Georgia Baptists to leadership

ATLANTA — A former Mississippi pastor has been named as director of the Department of Christian Ministries by the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention.



Ernest Edward (Ed) Onley, Jr., a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans

Onley Seminary, went to Georgia one year ago to head the state's new Program of Christian Ministries. According to the executive committee report, the new program

developed far beyond the expectations of the committee, and in the December meeting the program was upgraded to department status. Onley was named as director of the department, effective Jan. 1, 1985.

The new department director served several churches in Mississippi, including Avery Church, Derby Church, Ridgecrest Church in Hattiesburg, and Springfield Church, Morton.

Prior to going to Georgia, Onley served for nine years as Director of Church Community Ministries for the Capital Association, Oklahoma City, Okla., under appointment by the Home Mission Board.

## Japan Baptists apologize for Koreans' suffering

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — Japanese Baptists have formally apologized to Korean Baptists for the "unbearable sufferings" inflicted on Koreans during Japan's 36-year rule over the Korean peninsula.

A three-man Japanese delegation headed by Sumio Kaneko, executive secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention, presented the letter of apology at a meeting of the Korea Baptist Convention in Seoul. It was adopted earlier in 1984 during Japanese Baptists' annual convention session.

"As is clearly stated in the letter, Japan has inflicted upon Koreans unbearable sufferings . . . The letter was our confession of sin," wrote Kaneko in the November issue of *The Baptist*, journal of Japanese Baptists.

Kaneko said Korean Baptists accepted the apology "graciously" and welcomed the Japanese delegation's visit "as the beginning of genuine fellowship and cooperation between the two countries." He reported the letter also was presented to the ecumenical Korea Council of Churches.

Japan annexed then-unified Korea in 1910. Over the next 36 years Japanese colonial rulers brutally suppressed civic freedoms, exploited the Korean economy for Japanese business interests, and eventually tried to stamp out Korean culture. Many Koreans were forced to speak only Japanese, take Japanese family names and deny their own religions to adopt Japan's Shinto faith. The

period ended with Japan's World War II defeat in 1945.

International attention refocused on the Japanese colonial era when a 1982 edition of Japanese school textbooks downplayed colonial and war atrocities. News of the textbooks aroused public outrage in North and South Korea and China. Last September, during a state visit to Japan by South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, Japanese Emperor Hirohito indirectly apologized for his nation's behavior in Korea for the first time, calling the colonial years "regrettable" and "unfortunate."

## Deadline set for regional basketball tourney

Regionals for the State Baptist Basketball Tournament will take place Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 in seven regions of Mississippi.

Each county director of missions can put individuals in touch with the contact person who will sign up teams from churches. Deadline is Jan. 23 at noon for rosters and entry fees of \$35 per team. Players must be active members of participating churches. Two churches with fewer than 200 members may combine to form one team.

The state tournament will be Feb. 15-16 with semi-finals and finals to be played at the Mississippi College coliseum.



Larry and Cheryl Cox, missionaries to Burkino Faso, were featured speakers for Missions Night Out at First, Starkville.



Brenda and P. D. Lee, missionaries to Spain, are shown with their daughter, Christy. They are living in Starkville while on furlough, at the missionary home provided by First Church.



WMU leaders involved in Missions Night Out at First, Starkville, included, left to right, Mrs. Gretta Lloyd, District 5 WMU director; Mrs. Inez Mathis, WMU director for the church; and Mrs. Jean Bond, Oktibbeha Associational WMU director.

## Brewer willing to pay Super Bowl ad rates

Pre-game rate of \$1 million a minute for advertising during the Super Bowl was exorbitant enough to cause Chevrolet to withdraw its sponsorship.

But two of the nation's largest brewers — No. 1 Anheuser-Busch and No. 3 Stroh's — were willing to absorb the increase of \$160,000 per minute over ad rates for the '84 Super Bowl in order to push their products.

Despite predictions of a decline in alcohol advertising in the wake of a nationwide petition campaign aimed at banning beer and wine ads from radio and TV, there obviously has been no lack of interest by the nation's major brewers in heavy sponsorship of sporting events.

—Monday Morning Report  
Alcohol Research Information Service

## First, Starkville

## Missions Night Out captures attention of all age groups

A recent Missions Night Out banquet captured the attention and interest of all age groups in First Church, Starkville.

The WMU Council under the leadership of Mrs. Inez Mathis, WMU director, planned and prepared for the event. Their work included advance promotion, ticket sales, cooking, and serving.

The banquet speakers were missionaries Larry and Cheryl Cox from Burkino Faso. The Cox children entertained with African drums and songs.

GAs and their leaders gave the prayer calendar and led in prayer. RAs presented certificates to MKs Jason and Jeremy Cox, making them

honorary members of the local RA chapter.

The banquet was a part of a missions weekend. Cox spoke again at the Sunday morning worship service.

The church has always had a strong missions emphasis as is evidenced in the missionary home which the church provides and in the number of members who have been involved in missions activities. However, in 1984 the church set a new challenge. In evaluating the response to the 1983 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$10,000 and the giving which exceeded \$14,000, the church raised the goal to \$25,000 for 1984. Already the goal has been met and surpassed.

Raymond R. Lloyd is pastor.

## Original dramas, songs, stories, games wanted

ATLANTA, Ga. — Original songs, games, stories and dramas will be judged in a Potpourri Contest sponsored by the Special Mission Ministries Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB). All winning entries will be collected in a book, *Potpourri II* for use by home missionaries and mission groups.

Anyone is eligible to enter the contest, either as an amateur or a professional. For the purpose of this contest, an amateur is anyone presently enrolled in elementary through high school, college, seminary or a technical school. A professional does not attend school.

There are five main categories of entries — music, activities, games, stories and drama.

Music entries can include action songs, choruses, folk and fun songs, patriotic, inspirational and mission hymns, rounds, sing-a-longs, spiritual anthems, contemporary Christian songs or musical activities.

The category of activities can include campfire services, contests, rainy day activities, craft ideas and patriotic, promotional and holiday activities.

Entries submitted in the games categories can include ice breakers, mixers, general games, games from around the world, indoor and outdoor games, stunts and trick games.

Parables, poems, children sermons, object lessons, responsive readings and unison readings can be submitted for the stories category.

Drama can include fun and serious drama, skits, audience participations, speech choir, role playing and improvisations.

The material submitted should aim at mission activities such as Backyard Bible Clubs, Big A Clubs, campground settings, worship experiences and recreational events.

Anger blows out the lamp of the mind. In the examination of a great and important question, every one should be serene, slow-pulsed, and calm. — Ingersoll

Ten winners will be selected for each professional and amateur category. Winners will receive a certificate, a Potpourri T-shirt and a copy of the book *Potpourri II*. The top winners in each professional and amateur category will receive a \$50 prize.

All entries must be received by February 1, 1985.

For contest rules and to enter, contact Tom Eggleston, 1759 Hunting Creek Lane, Conyers, Georgia 30208, or phone (404) 992-1481.

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# Baptists need legislative information

(Continued from page 2)

"bingo" games and tax gross income from the games. House Bills 285 and 286 would allow for the establishment of a state racing commission and would effectively legalize parimutuel gambling. SB 2201 would establish a Bureau of State Lottery and the mechanism for its function as a new agency of the State Tax Commission.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** House Bill 63 would reduce the statutes of limitations on liability for deficiency in construction to six years. HB 132 would prohibit the alteration of a driver's license and would provide penalties for such change. House Bills 188, 222, 245 and Senate Bill 2227 would penalize uninsured motorists or require compulsory motor vehicle

liability insurance. HB 196 would require visual signals on smoke alarms in certain buildings. SB 2171 would provide for the licensing and regulation of child placement and residential child care facilities. SB 2007 and 2008 deal with the redefinition of certain firearms and prohibits counties or cities from restricting possession, sales, etc.

**MEDIA:** HB 246 and SB 2140 would prohibit the practice of closed negotiations for motion pictures known as "blind bidding" and would also require the previewing of a motion picture and its contents before a theater owner is committed to show the film in the community. SB 2039 would remove the regulation of cable television systems from local

authorities and give such regulation to the Public Service Commission.

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:** SB 2120 is an act which would prohibit strikes by public employees or public employee organizations. It would provide for judicial enforcement of such prohibition and would provide penalties for offenders.

**RESTRICTED SALES (BLUE LAWS):** House Bills 129 and 130 and Senate Bill 2050 are all designed to allow Sunday sales. Each would allow for local governmental entities to pass their own regulations and each has other special features that would create havoc with family solidarity and togetherness and would diminish the perception of religious observances and related activities.

**STATE GOVERNMENT:** SCR 503 would provide that a governor elected at or after the 1987 general election could succeed himself once. If passed by both houses of the legislature, this would be voted on by the citizens as a constitutional amendment. SCR 507 would reduce the number of days the legislature would be in session. Again, it would go to the voters as a proposed constitutional amendment.

The time is at hand for Mississippi Baptists to become informed citizens and to address the issues that will affect how individuals and society as a whole live and work. This legislative session will give all citizen Christians the opportunity to influence the political process and to take a stand on key issues.

Additional information on any of these or other proposed legislation can be received by contacting the Christian Action Commission, Box 530, Jackson 39205 or by calling (601) 968-3800. Remember, the best way to lose our liberties is for good men to do nothing.

Paul Griffin Jones II is executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

## Gift increases Amory fund for scholarships

Jerry Massey, pastor of First Church, Amory, has revealed that a member of the church, Dick Palmer, has contributed to the church a cash stipend which will raise the principal sum of the Lawrence and Louise Palmer Scholarship Fund to \$55,000.00.

The church established the scholarship fund in 1983 with funds made available by Dick Palmer, the son of the late Lawrence and Louise Palmer who were life-long members of First Church, Amory. Since the establishment of the memorial, Mr. Palmer, many other First Baptist members, members of other Amory churches, and others have made donations to the fund in memory of loved ones and friends.

The interest from the principal of the fund has, since its inception, assisted financially several members and former members of First Baptist Church toward degrees in a church-related vocation. "The current cash stipend will greatly enhance the amount of financial aid to be awarded to qualified recipients in the future," said Massey.

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# Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *Jesus' preparation for his ministry*
- Uniform: *The Water of Life*
- Life and Work: *Love for the excluded*

## Jesus' preparation for his ministry

By Bill R. Baker  
Luke 3:21-4:13

Regarding Jesus' preparation for his ministry, there are two matters which surface from this Scripture section—baptism and temptation.

**Baptism** (3:21-23). Jesus came to be baptized by John and that fact has prompted much discussion concerning the reason. It appears that the baptism of Jesus represents his consecration to the office of priest (see Numbers 4:1-3). The age of Jesus is carefully identified in v. 23. This is especially interesting in light of Numbers 4:3 which states "From thirty years old. . ."

The word baptism means to dip or immerse; therefore, it seems evident that Jesus was baptized in order to symbolize his total immersion into the will of the Heavenly Father. A voice came from heaven which said, "Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased." God is always pleased when one is immersed into his will.

**Temptation** (4:1-13). Temptation is designed to cause one to act independently of God. One should study this section in light of the timing, the tempting, and the triumph. The tempta-

tion came to Jesus intentionally, not accidentally or incidentally; consequently, the timing was right. Jesus was tempted following a spiritual "high." At his baptism the Spirit descended and the Father spoke. A Christian is wise to understand that temptation often follows a spiritual high that has resulted in a new level of personal commitment. The strategy of timing is also obvious when Jesus' physical condition is considered. He was hungry, tired, and lonely. The Christian must always be on guard, especially in times following a spiritual high or times when he is hungry, tired, and lonely.

There are three avenues of temptation and these are cited in 1 John 2:15-17. These are the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride. This same strategy may be seen in the temptation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6).

"And when the woman saw the tree was good for food (appeal to the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride), she took of the fruit thereof. . ."

Satan used the three avenues in his approach to the Son of God. First, he appealed to the flesh (v. 3); second, to the eyes (v. 5); and third, to pride (v. 9).

Following the temptation, Satan departed for a season (v. 13). Temptation may depart, but it will always return again and again. The triumph of Jesus over temptation demonstrates how the Christian may overcome. There are three essential elements in the strategy of resistance and triumph. First, immersion in the will of God (indicated by Jesus' baptism); second, appropriation of the Word of God (indicated by Jesus' use of the word of God in responding to the three temptations—vs. 4, 8, 10); third, submission to the Holy Spirit (4:1). Jesus is said to have been "full of the Holy Spirit." To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit.

Having immersed himself totally in the will of the Father and having overcome all temptation, Jesus is now ready to enter into his public ministry.

Bill Baker is pastor of First, Clinton.

tween the water in Jacob's well and the "living water" of God. Jesus assured her that the water from Jacob's well, the water which he had asked of her, had the power to satisfy thirst temporarily, but that one who drank of the living water which he was offering her would never thirst again; it would be within that one a living fountain flowing out of his heart. Satisfaction was exactly that for which this poor woman was longing. She had sought for it all her life, and in her search she had not been restrained by the laws of God or man; but she is still thirsting and the thirst would never be satisfied until she found in Christ a personal Lord and Saviour.

Men need to know the claims of Christ; but they should hear his promise as well. There is in every heart a thirst, a sense of lack which our Lord promises to satisfy. Really to know him and trust him is to have within the heart "a well of water springing up to eternal life." Jesus, in effect, is presenting himself as the Messiah. But this poor woman was not up on her Bible. Her spiritual density is evidenced by her reply, "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw" (v.15).

All that she saw in Jesus' glorious offer was freedom from natural thirst and from the daily chore of this long trip to the well. Barclay sees her reply as a jest. To her, Jesus must have seemed a bit out of his mind. All this talk about "living water" and an eternal quenching of thirst. Quoting Barclay, she merely sought to humor him—"She was jesting with a kind of humoring contempt about eternal things."

The interview was interrupted at this point by the return of the disciples. They were surprised that

## The water of life

By W. Levon Moore  
John 7:30-44

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles. In spite of the possibility of severe persecution, and much to the surprise of his family and friends, he went into the temple and taught. This public teaching and Jesus' miracles brought great delight to the multitudes, but great consternation to the Jewish religious leaders.

The Feast of Tabernacles commemorated the life of Israel during forty years of wandering in the wilderness. The rites and ceremonies observed during the feast were designed to remind the people of God's miracles blessings during that period. Every morning during the feast, a libation made in the temple symbolized the water which Moses brought forth by striking the rock. A golden pitcher of water from the pool of Siloam was poured out in the temple while trumpets sounded and people shouted. Jesus' invitation to the spiritually thirsty was predicated upon his claim to be the true source of all spiritual blessings.

Just before what appeared to be his impending arrest, Jesus stood on the last day of the feast and declared, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink" (v. 37). Please note three things about the scripture passage.

### I. Every man has spiritual thirst

The word "if" may be translated "when," making the passage read, "When a man thirsts. . ." Sooner or later every person feels the gnawing pangs of thirst for spiritual nourishment. This thirst is not confined to any one category of human life. All people, at some time in life, know of this thirst for that which earthly things cannot satisfy. This universal thirst is symbolized both by the sinful woman at the well of Samaria; and the deeply religious and morally good man, Nicodemus, of Jerusalem. To the first, Jesus promised "a well of water springing up unto everlasting life" (John 4:14). To the second, the Saviour issued the challenge to "be born of water and spirit" (John 3:5). To both, he was saying your spiritual longing is characteristic of that which is felt by every person at some time in life.

Our Lord recognized that one of

Jesus was talking to a woman, but out of respect for him they made no mention of it. The woman used this interruption as an opportunity to learn. She was so excited that she even left her water pot and hurriedly went into the city. Arriving in the village, she announced, "Come see a man who told me all that I ever did." Her question indicates that she is almost, but not quite persuaded, for she asks, "This is not the Christ, is it?" (v.29 NASV). However, she got the desired response. For "they went out of the city, and came to him." She ran into the city, and they ran back with her.

James F. Yates is pastor of First, Yazoo City.

man's requirements for life is water. Man's thirst for water is symbolic of his thirst for spiritual life. Jesus stressed that the only source of this life-giving element is the Son of God who is the Water of Life.

### II. Christ satisfies man's thirst through the indwelling Spirit

This life through Christ is contingent upon man's faith in the Saviour. According to Jesus, when one believes in him, as the scriptures have declared, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (v. 38). By this inference, he spoke of the Spirit which would be received by all who believe upon him.

Jesus had declared earlier in his ministry that, following his resurrection and ascension, the Holy Spirit would come to be man's constant companion and inner source of strength. Through the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit, man's unceasing well of spiritual water.

### III. Christ's call to the Water of Life brings division

According to John, many people who heard Jesus' message concerning the Water of Life believed that Jesus was the Prophet, whose coming was foretold in the Old Testament (Deut. 18:15f). Others declared him to be the Christ. The major segment of his hearers, however, believed that Jesus, a Galilean, did not meet the requirements of scripture which stated that the Christ would come out of Bethlehem from the seed of David. In summary, the Gospel writer said, "So there was a division among the people because of him" (v. 43).

In today's complex world, frustrated hearts continue to thirst after life. Christ still stands to issue an invitation for thirsty souls to come unto him. Millions of people have accepted his invitation and have found him to be the Water of Life. Have you made that life-giving choice?

Moore is director of missions, Atalanta Association.

## Love for the excluded

By James F. Yates  
John 4:6-10; 13-15; 27-30

William Barclay calls attention to the fact that this conversation with the Samaritan woman follows exactly the same pattern as the conversation with Nicodemus. Jesus makes a statement. The statement is misunderstood and taken in the wrong sense. Jesus remakes the statement in an even more vivid way. It is still misunderstood; and then Jesus compels the person with whom he is speaking to discover and to face the truth for himself or herself. That was Jesus' usual way of teaching; and it was a most effective way, for, as someone has said: "There are certain truths which a man cannot accept; he must discover them for himself."

Herschel Hobbs points out further that like Nicodemus' night visit in order to avoid publicity, so this woman came at noon to avoid the scorn and jibes of her more righteous kind. Then he points out that the similarity between these two people ends at that point. Otherwise they were at opposite poles of the ladder of society. Nicodemus was a cultured, powerful, and righteous Jew. This woman was an unknown and immoral Samaritan peasant. And yet Jesus had something for both of them.

Nicodemus came seeking spiritual food and Jesus abruptly went to the heart of the matter. This woman had one aim, to fill her water jar and hasten home. So Jesus used the indirect approach on her. Only one thing did they have in common. Both wanted water. So Jesus said to her, "Give me to drink" (v. 7). And with this simple question the greatest ex-

ample of personal soul-winning on record began.

The woman's response was one of surprise. She may have been surprised that he would speak to a woman. She probably knew that in Jewish custom men did not speak to women in public, not even to their wives. She was certainly surprised that a Jew would ask a Samaritan for a drink. Her response to Jesus' request was, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" Then for the benefit of his Gentile readers John adds, "For the Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." Ray Summers points out that this is really an overstatement. Even the Pharisees permitted the use of eggs, fruits, and vegetables from Gentiles. Today's English Version has the accurate meaning of the word in rendering the sentence, "Jews will not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use." It was a matter of religious, ceremonial food laws. By offering to drink from her water pot, Jesus was exposing himself to ceremonial uncleanness; that surprised her.

Jesus responded to this dilemma with a divine contrast: "If you knew the gift of God" and the true identity of the one who had asked of her a drink, she would have asked him and he would have given her "living water." But like Nicodemus, she misunderstood the meaning of Jesus' words. In Jewish thought and Scriptures, "living water" meant running water in contrast to still water. Jesus goes on with the contrast be-

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